Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the

application:

Listing of the Claims

1.   (previously presented) A method, comprising:

receiving, at a bi-directional communications device, an application level gateway

(ALG) file;

comparing, at the bi-directional communications device, a particular one

compatibility parameter of said ALG file with both a compatibility feature of said bi-

directional communications device and a non-signature, non-code-error checking feature

expected in received and authentic ALG files by said bi-directional communications device;

and

storing said ALG file at said bi-directional communications device in response to a

favorable comparison of said at least one compatibility parameter.

2.   (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

rejecting said ALG file at said bi-directional communications device in response to an

unfavorable comparison of said particular one compatibility parameter.

3.   (cancelled)

4.   (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said particular one

compatibility parameter comprises one of a header size of said ALG file and a body size of

said ALG file.

5-10.   (cancelled)

11.   (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said bi-directional

communications device comprises a cable modem.

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12.   (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving step comprises:

periodically polling a service provider to determine if at least one of a new and updated ALG file is available;

sending a request for an available ALG file; and

receiving said requested ALG file from an access network.

13.   (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving step comprises:

receiving a configuration file from said service provider, said configuration file identifying at least one of new and updated ALG files;

sending a request for an available ALG files; and

receiving said requested ALG file from an access network.

14.   (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a firewall program utilizes said ALG files to control data traffic.

15.   (cancelled)

16.   (previously presented) An apparatus, comprising:

means for receiving, at a bi-directional communications device, an application level gateway (ALG) file;

means for comparing, at the bi-directional communications device, a particular one compatibility parameter of said ALG file with both a compatibility feature of said bi-directional communications device and a non-signature, non-code-error checking feature expected in received and authentic ALG files by said bi-directional communications device; and

means for storing said ALG file at said bi-directional communications device in response to a favorable comparison of said particular one compatibility parameter.

17.   (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising:

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means for rejecting said ALG file at said bi-directional communications device in response to an unfavorable comparison of said particular one compatibility parameter.

18.   (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said bi-directional communications device comprises a cable modem.

19.   (cancelled)

20.   (cancelled)

21.   (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one compatibility feature of said bi-directional communications device comprises an amount of available memory in said bi-directional communications device to store the ALG file.

22.   (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the at least one compatibility feature of said bi-directional communications device comprises an amount of available memory in said bi-directional communications device to store the ALG file.

23.   (previously presented)The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the non-signature, non-code-error checking feature expected in received and authentic ALG files by said bi-directional communications device comprises one of a header size of said ALG file and a body size of said ALG file.

24.   (previously presented)The method of claim 1, wherein a value of the particular one compatibility parameter of said ALG file is added to a value of another particular one compatibility parameter of said ALG file as a sum that is compared to a value of the compatibility feature of said bi-directional communications device.

25.   (previously presented)The method of claim 24, wherein the value of the particular one compatibility parameter of said ALG file is directly compared to a value of the non-signature, non-code-error checking feature expected in received and authentic ALG files by said bi-directional communications device.

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26. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the at least one compatibility feature of said bi-directional communications device comprises an amount of available memory in said bi-directional communications device to store the ALG file.

27. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said particular one compatibility parameter comprises one of a header size of said ALG file and a body size of said ALG file.

28. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the at least one compatibility feature of said bi-directional communications device comprises an amount of available memory in said bi-directional communications device to store the ALG file.

29. (previously presented)The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the non-signature, non-code-error checking feature expected in received and authentic ALG files by said bi-directional communications device comprises one of a header size of said ALG file and a body size of said ALG file.

30. (previously presented)The apparatus of claim 16, wherein a value of the particular one compatibility parameter of said ALG file is added to a value of another particular one compatibility parameter of said ALG file as a sum that is compared to a value of the compatibility feature of said bi-directional communications device.

31. (previously presented)The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the value of the particular one compatibility parameter of said ALG file is directly compared to a value of the non-signature, non-code-error checking feature expected in received and authentic ALG files by said bi-directional communications device.